

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) GENERAL PERMIT NO. WI-B057681-05-0

**General Permit Name:** Operation and Maintenance of Municipal Water Systems

**Receiving Water and Location:** Point source discharges to waters of the state of Wisconsin.

**Brief Description of Facilities Covered under the General Permit:** This general permit is applicable to short-term point source discharges of pollutants to a water of the state from operational and maintenance activities of municipal water systems. Discharges from operational and maintenance activities include: flushing water from cleaning, disinfecting, and/or flushing water distribution and storage systems; hydrostatic test water from hydrostatic testing of water distribution and storage systems; well development water from the development, installation, and/or purging water supply wells; and pigging/swabbing water from the pigging/swabbing water distribution systems to groundwater.

**Proposed Major Changes from Previous Permit:**

- The general permit name has changed from “Hydrostatic Test Water or Water Supply System Water” to “Operation and Maintenance of Municipal Water Systems”. This name change was made as this permit is now applicable to discharges from municipal water systems.
- Application for Permit Coverage requirements have been added to the permit under Section 2 to provide instruction and guidance to applicants on how to apply for coverage under this general permit.
- Effluent limitations and monitoring for total residual chlorine have been added to the permit under Section 3. Monitoring for total residual chlorine is depending upon if the permittee adds chlorine-based additives to the water prior to discharge or the water supply system already contains chlorine or chlorine compounds for disinfection.
- Monitoring for total phosphorus have been added to the permit under Section 3. Monitoring for total phosphorus is depending upon if the permittee adds phosphorus containing additives to the water prior to discharge or the water already contains phosphorus or phosphorus compounds for corrosion control or sequestering.
- A sampling protocol has been added to the permit for fire hydrant flushing discharges under Section 3.2.3. Also sampling frequency and reporting reduction requirements has been added to the permit for fire hydrant flushing discharges under Section 3.2.4.
- The permit now requires that monitoring results be submitted on an electronic discharge monitoring report (eDMR) instead of a paper annual report under Section 5 or being exempt from reporting as stated in the previous permit. The monitoring forms are due 21 days after the end of the reporting permit. The eDMR shall be submitted regardless if there is a discharge or not during any reporting period.
- Information on the policy and regulations on water treatment additives has been added to the permit in Section 6.
- Information and policy on antidegradation, impaired waters, total maximum daily loads, and wetlands have been added to the permit under Section 7.

Note: For specific details and information about proposed changes from the previous permit, please see the permit fact sheet.

**Permit Drafter:** Trevor J. Moen, DNR, 625 E County Rd Y STE 700, Oshkosh WI 54904-9731, phone: (920) 410-5192 or email: [Trevor.Moen@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Trevor.Moen@Wisconsin.gov)

The Department has tentatively decided that the above specified WPDES permits should be reissued.

Persons wishing to comment on or object to the proposed permit action, or to request a public hearing, may write to the Department of Natural Resources at the permit drafter’s address. All comments or suggestions received no later than 30 days after the publication date of this public notice will be considered along with other information on file in making a final decision regarding the permit. Anyone providing comments in response to this public notice will receive a notification of the Department’s final decision when the permit is issued.

The Department may schedule a public informational hearing if requested by any person and shall schedule an informational hearing if a petition requesting a hearing is received from 5 or more persons or if response to this notice indicates significant public interest pursuant to s. 283.49, Wis. Stats. Requests for a public informational hearing shall state the following: the name and address of the person(s) requesting the hearing; the interest in the proposed permit of the person(s) requesting the hearing; the reasons for the request; and the issues proposed to be considered at the hearing.

Information on file for this permit action, including the draft permit and fact sheet may be reviewed on the internet at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Wastewater/PublicNotices.html> or by contacting the above-named permit drafter's e-mail address during normal business hours Monday through Friday (except holidays). Note that DNR staff have limited access to permit hard copy files during this time as they are working from home, but much of the permit file is available electronically by e-mail request. Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodation, including the provision of informational material in an alternative format, will be made to qualified individuals upon request.

Publishing Newspaper: WI State Journal, PO Box 8056, Madison, WI 53708-8056

Date Notice Issued: April 22, 2021